

[Mr. R. Nilacanta Pillai.]

<i>Demand.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>	<i>Particulars.</i>
	Rs.	
XVII. Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments — other than the Co-operative Department and Census.	45	For rent for holding the office of the Economic Development Board.
XX. Registration.	3,000	For binding charges of the Registration Department.
XXIII. Miscellaneous.	1,00,000	In connection with the Chicago International Exposition of 1933.
Do.	4,548	On account of pay etc., of the Secretary and staff of the Public Service Recruitment Committee.
Do.	197	Under T. A. to the non-official members of the Special Punja Loan Committee.
XXIV. Anchal—Working Expenses.	12,000	On account of the cost of packing and transmission charges of Anchal and Service Anchal stamps from the Central Stamp Depot to the various branches and local depots.
XXVIII. Other Loans.	43,768	On account of loan to Mr. Vyas-kara Moos, Kottayam, in connection with the Electric Installation at Kottayam.

MOTION FOR DETERMINATION OF THE SALARY OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT : The next business is the motion by the Chief Secretary regarding the salary of the Deputy President.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Sir, under Section 7 (4) of the Reforms Regulation, II of 1108, the salary of the Deputy President of this Assembly has to be fixed by this House. Accordingly, I beg to move the following motion for the consideration of the House:—

“That the Deputy President of the Sri Mulam Assembly be paid a salary of Rs. 2,000 per annum.”

MR. P. K. NARYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : May I know from the Chief Secretary whether this amount is included in the Budget Estimates?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : No. The amount has first to be decided before it is included in the budget.

MOTION FOR DETERMINATION OF THE SALARY OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

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PRESIDENT : Three amendments have been tabled and I think it will expedite the business of the House if these are moved at once and discussed all together, assuming that the members wish to move them.

MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad) : Sir, I beg to move an amendment to the motion placed before the House to the effect that the salary of the Deputy President be fixed at Rs. 1,200 per annum instead of at Rs. 3,000 per annum.

In doing so, Sir, I am only voicing forth the opinion of the public of Travancore. There is a huge army of highly paid officers in the State.

PRESIDENT : You must keep to the motion, please. The motion before the House is about the salary of the Deputy President.

MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad) : We, the non-official members, do not find any reason why the salary of the Deputy President of the Assembly who shall be elected and removed by a vote of the Assembly should not be fixed at Rs. 1,200 per annum. The expression "salary" is a misnomer in the Regulation. It ought to have been "allowance" or "honorarium" and not "salary". But unfortunately we are not permitted to trespass into the forbidden ground of discussing the contents of the Regulation and having the expression "salary" altered or changed. Travancore is a poor State. Sir, the people of Travancore shall not pay, we their representatives shall not propose, and the gentleman who is to be elected as the Deputy President shall not expect a big amount as salary for the services that he has to render to the State at large, and hence I propose that the salary of the Deputy President be fixed at Rs. 1,200 per annum, that is to say at Rs. 100 per mensem, instead of at Rs. 3,000 per annum.

PRESIDENT : Anybody seconding the proposal?

The motion fell through for want of a seconder.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (Mavelikara) : I beg to move that "1,000" be substituted for "3,000" occurring after 'Rs.' and before 'per annum'.

My object in making this motion before this Assembly is to show that the representatives of the people are prepared to find a competent person as Deputy President even if he be paid only Rs. 1,000 per annum. We must curtail our expenditure as far as possible and this House should set an example to the official world that they are prepared.....

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (Quilon I) : Does the member propose a salary of Rs. 1,000 per mensem?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (Mavelikara) : I said Rs. 1,000 per annum, and it is found in the amendment. I think this House should set an example to the official world by showing that their elected Deputy President will serve for an amount of Rs. 1,000 per annum. The Deputy President has to maintain a status. He need not make any profit out of his office ; but he must be in a position to have a proper building, to have a good conveyance and other things. For that, I think Rs. 1,000 is sufficient.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Does not the member expect the Deputy President to keep a car as conveyance?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I only said that the Deputy President has to keep a conveyance.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Does not the member expect the Deputy President to keep a *jutha* or car or any other vehicle as conveyance, consistent with the dignity of his office?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I expect him to lead a decent life; for that I think Rs. 1,000 is sufficient.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): According to the amendment of the member, the salary comes to Rs. 83 1/3 per mensem. Does the member think that that is sufficient for a decent living in Trivandrum?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): For that matter, I am of opinion that the Deputy President should not indent upon this House, for *all* his *expenditure*. We will pay him to the extent necessary to enable him to have a decent living in Trivandrum during the Council season.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): What does the member mean by saying a "decent living"?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I have already said that in my motion.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Will the member please inform the House for what purpose Rs. 83 1/3 is intended?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I have already answered that.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Will the member please give details for the Rs. 83 1/3 per mensem? We want to know every detail in regard to every expenditure because we are perplexed by Mr. Asan's motion.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I think the member asks this question, because he thinks Rs. 83 1/3 is too small an amount. If I am to correct the member, I may tell him the state of things with regard to the holding of this meeting. From now onwards, this meeting will not take place for more than 40 days in a year as the previous Council sat for only about 20 days during the previous years. According to that estimate, the salary I have proposed comes to about Rs. 25 per diem. That is more than enough for a decent living. According to...

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Does the member think...

PRESIDENT: Please do not interrupt the member during his speech. Let him finish the sentence, please.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): He does not finish a sentence. (*Laughter*).

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): So, in my opinion, Rs. 25 per diem is more than enough for a decent living in the town of Trivandrum.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Is the member aware of the honorarium of the Deputy President of the Madras Legislative Council?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I know that the President there is given a salary.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): I am asking the member about the salary of the Deputy President.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I do not know anything about that. If the member knows that, I accept his statement.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I inform the member that the Deputy President of the Madras Legislative Council is paid an honorarium of Rs. 5,000 per annum?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Besides the Deputy President, we are to have two Chairmen to preside over the deliberations of the Assembly. Taking that also into consideration I think Rs. 1,000 per annum is a reasonable remuneration. It is quite ample to enable the Deputy President to have a decent living in Trivandrum. With these words, I move the amendment for the consideration of the House.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I beg to second the amendment. I am sorry to state that the status of the Deputy President does not consist in the high salary he is to get from the representatives of the people. If the person who is elected has an element of patriotism in him, whatever salary we sanction will be gladly accepted by him.

MR. K. P. KRISHNAN MENON (*Parur*): I beg to move the following motion:—

"For the words 'Rs. 3,000 per annum' in the motion, the words 'Rs. (300) three hundred for each session, without exceeding Rs. (1,500) one thousand and five hundred a year' be substituted."

In my opinion, we must allow an honorarium instead of salary. I associate myself with all that has been said by Mr. Damodaran Asan in connection with this motion.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): I beg to second it.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I beg to oppose the amendments. The Office of the Deputy President is not a new creation with the Legislative Reforms just now introduced. In the late Council also, there was a Deputy President and I believe he was getting a salary of Rs. 3,000 per annum. With the introduction of the Reforms, this Council is invested with powers of electing the Deputy President from among the non-officials, and also with the power to fix his salary. So, the new elected Deputy President has more onerous duties and responsibilities to perform than the Deputy President of the old Council.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): How is the work of the Deputy President more onerous now than before?

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): The present Assembly is invested with more powers and responsibilities which naturally means that the person who holds the Deputy Presidentship has more onerous duties to perform.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I ask the member, is not Rs. 1,000 enough then?

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): The motion before the House is that the Deputy President of the Sri Mulam Assembly be paid a salary of Rs. 3,000 per annum. Yours is only an amendment.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does the member know that the President has to nominate two Chairmen also, beside the Deputy President.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): That question does not arise.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Does not the member know that the Deputy President can absent himself, because the nominated Chairman can preside over the House?

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): If the President asks the Deputy President to preside, he has to do it. The President may ask at any moment.

MR. PUTUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Does the member think that the Deputy President will absent himself for the purpose of giving an acting place to the nominated Chairman?

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Therefore in my opinion, if our finances permit, we must allow a more decent salary for the Deputy President. I am really at pains to understand the real principles underlying the amendments brought forward by Mr. Damodaran Asan and Mr. Krishna Menon. If the motion is based on principles of economy, I can appreciate the fundamental idea underlying it. Both the members are aware of the fact that, in this State, lakhs and lakhs of rupees are spent towards the salary of officers. This House, in my humble view, should be ashamed of itself to cut the salary of the Deputy President to a very low figure, when we learn that even the most modest recommendations embodied in the report of the Retrenchment Committee in the direction of salary cuts, are not given effect to by the Government. I ask the House in all earnestness to view the motion in a proper light and vote for the motion brought forward by the Government. I am even for enhancing the amount to Rs. 5,000 provided our funds allow it. What do we get by cutting down the salary to Rs. 1,000? Probably we may be gaining Rs. 2,000 which amount will be spent in some other direction. I ask, Sir, why all the fight for the shadows when the substance is left untouched.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does the member know that the Retrenchment Committee have fixed this salary of the Deputy President at Rs 1,000?

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): That may be. The Government have not accepted all the recommendations of the Committee.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is the member prepared to stand by the report of the Retrenchment Committee? That is what I want to know.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): That is another matter which is not at issue now. With these few remarks, Sir, I am supporting the motion of the Chief Secretary.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): It is the duty of the representatives of the people to suggest a reasonable and modest expenditure in the matter of Government expenditure.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I do not quite catch the member.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): The fact that we waste money in the various branches does not mean that we must not vote for Rs. 1,000 per annum.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I am at the motion brought forward by the Government. I support the motion and oppose the amendment motions.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I rise to oppose the amendments brought forward by Mr. Damodaran Asan and Mr. K. P. Krishna Menon. I could not understand for what reasons they have brought forward the amendments. It will be more honorable if a non-official member be asked to take up the Deputy-Presidentship for a nominal allowance. If so, I would have appreciated Mr. Damodaran Asan and Mr. Krishna Menon bringing forward an amendment fixing the salary of the Deputy President at Re. 1 per annum. From the arguments of the opponents, we as non-official members, cannot agree to all that they have said. The Deputy President to be elected is our accredited leader. When we elect a Deputy President, we lay on him our full confidence and he has to lead the deliberations of this Assembly, like the Dewan-President. Then, we are giving him a status almost next to the Dewan himself. Mr. Damodaran Asan says that he must live a decent life when in Trivandrum. I am at a loss to know the basis on which Mr. Damodaran Asan has calculated the decent sum at Rs. 83 1/3 per mensem.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does the member think that the allowance I have proposed is not more decent?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): To me it appears a non-official member who has no other means if he is prepared to sacrifice for the political cause of the country could not manage with that. Any man for that matter will lead a decent life. The ex-President of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Patel, who was a Congressman served the country's interest very well. Even he did not tell nor the Assembly vote for a nominal salary as is now suggested by Mr. Damodaran Asan.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is there any member of the Assembly who has no other means?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I say even if a member who has no other means of existence comes in and is prepared to serve the country's interests, why grudge him paying the reasonable amount suggested by Government which comes only to the monthly pay of the Dewan. We have no control over the money thus saved by the proposed reduction. We cannot say how this Rs 2,000, to be gained as is suggested by Mr. Damodaran Asan, would be spent, for we have no control over it, so to say. It may be spent for minor items in any way as the Government pleases.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): But the member thinks that status depends upon the pay of the member.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): The member himself was saying that some amount must be set apart for a decent living in Trivandrum. Why not the member himself bring forward a motion suggesting for a nominal sum of Re. 1 as salary? I could have appreciated that. The member does not seem to have accepted that as a principle in moving the amendment.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does the member suggest that the sum I have fixed is less decent?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): What I am suggesting is only more decent. I would even prefer to suggest a bigger amount. But as the Chief Secretary's motion is the only acceptable one before the House, I support the motion brought forward by the Government and oppose the amendment motions.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member, is it the monetary consideration that should weigh in these matters?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I don't say that.

MR. PUTUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): I rise to a point of order. The member putting a question, should he not address the Chair, Sir?

PRESIDENT: That is what every member is expected to do.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): A word more in support of the motion brought forward by the Government.

Mr. Asan referred to the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee. There is the Report of the Retrenchment Committee circulated amongst us. Even the Government have not accepted some of their recommendations. For example, the Retrenchment Committee have recommended for a cut of Rs. 2,70,000 in the salaries of the Government officers. What have the Government done in regard to that? They have yet to consider about the reduction of Rs. 4 lakhs which the Committee have recommended in the direction of travelling allowances. That is how the recommendations of the Committee have been respected by the Government. That being the case, in the matter of fixing the salary of the Deputy President, why should we be guided by the Report of the Retrenchment Committee?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): That is a reasonable recommendation made by the Retrenchment Committee.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): There are also unreasonable recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. For example, the posts of many peons were abolished.

PRESIDENT: You are getting away from the point.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Sir, I just referred to the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee only because the mover of the amendment referred to it, I had to meet his arguments. There are other recommendations which this House need not accept. That is my argument. So I say that this amendment need not be considered seriously by this House. The proposition of the Chief Secretary, I fully believe, will be accepted by this House.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): സർ, ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിന് നൽകേണ്ട ശമ്പളസംഖ്യയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഭേദഗതിയെ ശക്തിയായി എതിർക്കുന്നതിനാണ് ഞാൻ ആരംഭിക്കുന്നത്. എന്റെ ഈ അഭിപ്രായപ്രകടനത്തിനുള്ള കാരണങ്ങൾ നാലാണ്. ഒന്നാമത്, ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിയമസഭാറഗുലേഷൻ ഏഴാം വകുപ്പ് ൪-ാം ഉപവകുപ്പിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയാണു പറഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നത്:—

"The Deputy President shall receive such salary as may be determined by the Assembly with the concurrence of our Government."

ഇപ്പോൾ ഉദ്ധരിച്ച വാചകത്തിൽ ഉപയോഗിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന പദം സാലറി എന്നാണ്. സാലറി എന്ന പദത്തിന്റെ അർത്ഥം കേവലം പാരിതോഷികം എന്നോ സൗജന്യം എന്നോ അല്ല മനസ്സിടാക്കേണ്ടത്. ഒരു നിലയിൽ ആലോചിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം രാജഭരണനയങ്ങളും നിയമങ്ങളും സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്ന ഈ അസംബ്ലിയുടെ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിന് ആ സ്ഥാനത്തിനും പദവിക്കും അനുയോജ്യമായ പ്രതിഫലം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടത് ആവശ്യമാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഇതിലേയ്ക്കായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യയിൽനിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കാൻ പാടില്ല എന്നാണ് എന്റെ ഒന്നാമത്തെ വാദം.

രണ്ടാമത്, ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറ് എന്ന നിലയിൽ അദ്ദേഹം നിർവ്വഹിക്കേണ്ട കൃത്യങ്ങൾ കേവലം പ്രജകൾക്കുവേണ്ടി മാത്രം ഉള്ളതല്ല. ഈ അസംബ്ലിയുടെ സ്ഥിരം പ്രസിഡൻറായ ദിവാൻജിയുടെ അഭാവത്തിൽ, അദ്ദേഹം അസംബ്ലിയിൽ ഔദ്യോഗികനിലയിൽ നിർവ്വഹിക്കേണ്ട കൃത്യങ്ങൾക്കു ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറു വഹിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു സ്റ്റേറ്റ്മെന്റുവേണ്ടി, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഒരു ഗവണ്മെന്റിനുവേണ്ടി എന്തെങ്കിലും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന ഒരുമിനു ആ സ്റ്റേറ്റിൽനിന്നും പ്രതിഫലം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടത് പൂർവ്വസ്ഥാപിതനിയമങ്ങൾക്ക് ഏറ്റവും യോജിച്ചതും ആണ്. ഈ നിലയ്ക്കു ഇപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മൂലധനം രൂപം

[Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai.]

തന്നെ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനു ശമ്പളമായിട്ടു നൽകേണ്ടതാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ രണ്ടാമത്തെ വാദം.

മൂന്നാമത്തെ കാരണം പ്രീസിഡൻറ് (precedent) എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. പ്രീസിഡൻറിനു ചില അവസരങ്ങളിൽ നിയമത്തെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ പ്രാബല്യവും പ്രാധാന്യവും ഉണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നത്. ഇവിടെ ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി സംസാരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മെമ്പറന്മാരിൽ ചിലർ മുൻപിലത്തെ കൗൺസിലിലും മെമ്പറന്മാർ ആയിരുന്നു എന്ന് എനിക്കറിയാം. മുൻപിലത്തെ കൗൺസിലിലും ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനു മുമ്പായിരും രൂപതന്നെയായിരുന്നു നൽകിവന്നിരുന്നത്. ആ സ്ഥിതിയ്ക്ക് ഇതിനുമുമ്പു നടന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന പ്രീസിഡൻറിനെ നാം കൂടി അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഭോഷമില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഇതിനുംപുറമെ മുൻപിലത്തെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ജോലി ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനു നിവ്ഹരിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നത്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കും ഈ തുക ഒട്ടും കുറയ്ക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാകുന്നു.

ഇനി ഇതിലേയ്ക്ക് സാമ്പത്തികാധിപത്യം എന്നൊരു സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞേക്കാം. നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് ഒരു സാമ്പത്തികക്ഷയവും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണെന്റെ വിശ്വാസം.

ഇതിനുദാഹരണമായി പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇത്തവണത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ൩,൩൨൮ രൂപായോളം വമ്പിച്ചുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനായി ആതനമായി സൃഷ്ടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന് പ്രതിവർഷം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതിനായി ചേർത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനുവേണ്ടി ഇത്രയും രൂപാ പ്രതിവർഷം ചിലവു ചെലുത്താമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അസംബ്ളിയുടെ സംരക്ഷകനായ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിന് മുമ്പായിരും രൂപ എങ്കിലും പ്രതിഫലം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിന് എന്തുകൊണ്ടു അനുവദിച്ചുകൂടാ എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നത്.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (Neyyattinkara I): Is it the member's opinion that, because Government have committed one blunder, we also should be a party to another blunder?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (Tiruvalla III): ഇതൊരു ബുണ്ടറല്ലെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (Tiruvalla I): വമ്പിച്ചുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ സംരക്ഷിക്കു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ നിയമിക്കുന്ന കാര്യം സഭ ഇതു വരെ സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടില്ലല്ലോ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): ഇല്ല.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): സഭ അതംഗീകരിച്ചതിനു ശേഷം വേണ്ടെ അതിനെ സാമ്യപ്പെടുത്തി പറയുവാൻ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു സാമ്പത്തിക ക്ഷയം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ളതിനു ഒരു ഫരണം പറഞ്ഞു എന്നേയുള്ളൂ.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ഏറ്റവും ഗൗരവപ്പെട്ട വകുപ്പുകളിലെ ഭരണമേധാവികൾക്കു അസംബ്ലിയിൽ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിന്റെ ആജ്ഞയ്ക്കു വിധേയനായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നത്. അത്രയ്ക്കുള്ള സ്ഥാനവലിപ്പം ഡെപ്യൂട്ടിപ്രസിഡൻറിനുണ്ട്. ആ നിലയിൽ നോക്കിയാലും ആ സ്ഥാനത്തിനു കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളം നൽകേണ്ടതാണ്. ഡെപ്യൂട്ടിപ്രസിഡൻറിനു മുഴുവൻ സമയവും ഉദ്യോഗനിലയിൽ തന്നെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതു കൊണ്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മൂവായിരം രൂപാകൊടുത്താൽ മതിയാകുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. അതിനാൽ ഞാൻ ഈ ഭേദഗതിയെ ശക്തിയായി എതിർക്കുകയും ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, I rise to oppose the amendments before the House. Mr. Asan, the mover of the amendment, conceded that the Deputy President has to maintain a status. The only difference, if there is any difference at all in regard to that question, was about the opinion in regard to the standards. According to Mr. Asan, the Deputy President is to maintain an 83 and odd rupees standard. But the Chief Secretary thinks that he has to maintain a 250 rupees standard. If decency could be measured from the amount of emolument also, we have honestly to confess that some sort of weight has to be given to a man who has some money. That is honestly conceded. It is all very well to say in theory that you can serve a State honourably and patriotically without any pay. When we have reached such a state, then I can understand that no such system of scale of pay is necessary in a State with such a high degree of culture. But these are all questions which do not come within the ambit of discussions in this Assembly which has to deal with practical and material propositions. When we concede all that, is the sum of Rs. 250 sufficient for the Deputy President who has to do more work obviously than formerly? That is clear because it could be gathered from the publications made by Government on the Constitutional Reforms. It is seen that virtually the Deputy President will be automatically presiding over the Assembly as distinguished from the previous practice.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Which is the publication from which the member has gathered that information?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, I shall answer the question if it comes through the Chair.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I am asking through the Chair.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Then let me hear the member.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Which is the publication from which the member has gathered that the Deputy President has to preside on almost all occasions?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I did not say that. I said that from the publications of the Government on Constitutional Reforms hereafter the Deputy President will be practically presiding over the deliberations of the Assembly. We can also infer that, when we see that the President has such a lot of duties to do connected with the Council, he being the President of the Upper House as well. Government business will suffer a good deal if he is to preside over almost all the meetings of the Assembly too. That could be gathered from the circumstances. There is no use in covering up that. So the Deputy President now has to do more work than the nominated Deputy President we have had up till now. Mr. Damodaran Asan is under the delusion that the Deputy President has to preside at best only over 40 days' sittings. But I am afraid he did not calculate the number of days of meetings of committees over which the Deputy President has generally to preside. Ordinarily, if we have a committee, it is the Deputy President who has to preside over it. You cannot possibly calculate the number of days of meetings of committees and give daily wages for that.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Which are the committees over which the Deputy President is *ex-officio* President?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I did not say that. I said that it has been the practice all through. Why should you cover it up? Let us be fair.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The member said that the Deputy President has work in almost all the committees.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I am not arguing it technically. I say it for the third time. As a matter of fact we have found that the Deputy President has to preside over many of the committees, almost all the committees. He has to devote all his time and energy for public work and I think Rs. 250 is necessary, sufficient, ample and decent. I do not think this House will be deluded in regard to that.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): What about the daily allowance and *batta* which the Deputy President would get over and above his salary?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I have not calculated that. The member may himself calculate it. I am only concerned with the salary.

So there is ample work for the Deputy President to do.

Another question was also raised in this connection. It was stated that the Retrenchment Committee which was appointed by Government had made some recommendations which were not accepted by Government. If the Retrenchment Committee made some reduction, why should not the House now accept that and follow the recommendations of that Committee? That seems to be the argument of Mr. Asan. The Committee made a recommendation under a particular set of circumstances.

When they made large cuts or small cuts in the salary of some Government Officers, they also made a proportionate reduction in all the branches of the administration, and the honorarium of the Deputy President had also to undergo a change. It should not be taken apart from the whole and argued separately. If there was a reduction all through, then the honorarium of the Deputy President should also be reduced to a particular limit. That was not accepted by Government. That cannot be brought forward as an argument for cutting the salary of Deputy President. As soon as you are given the power to elect a real representative of yours, a representative in the real sense, and not one nominated by the Government, you should not bring forward a motion before this House to reduce his salary. When there was a nominated Deputy President, not one of the gentlemen sent in a cut motion for reducing his salary.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery cum Peermade II*): Does the member know that it was a non-votable item?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I think it was a votable item.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does not the member know that there was a cut motion?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): I stand corrected.

I think, under these circumstances, this House will not easily accede to this proposal which may on the face of it look democratic.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, I oppose both the amendments on grounds entirely different from those that have been urged here. I feel, Sir, that the discussion, both opposing as well as supporting the amendment, has entirely taken a very very wrong direction. I feel it is rather undesirable that members of this House have thought it fit to give vent to their feelings particularly with reference to persons and Rs. as., and ps. I always think, Sir, that the dignity of an officer goes with the office and not with anything else. I am really sorry that such of the members as have put in their nominations for the place have been put in a very bad fix. They are expecting themselves to be voted by the majority of the members here and they feel ill if their prospective salary or remuneration for the work they are turning out

[Mr. M. Sivatanu Pillai.]

has to be measured in terms of Rs., as., and ps. Well, Sir, to me it appears that it is not only not desirable but most unhappy. Some of my friends on this side of the House may think that I am a man who does not feel for the poor tax-payer's money. I may assure them that I am second to none in feeling for the poor tax-payer. If any attempt is made to waste the tax-payer's money unnecessarily or unwarrantedly, I will be the last to vote for it and I will immediately step in and see that such wastage is prevented. I expect the members to take this question not in that aspect. The Deputy President is to be elected by the majority of this House. If the criterion is that the Deputy President ought not to be paid so heavily, according to the members who have brought forward the amendment, it is in their own hands that they can effect it or even say that they are not going to give anything to the Deputy President in consideration of the poor tax-payer's money. The Deputy President, as one among us, may also feel for the poor tax-payer's money and say in his turn that he is not going to receive anything. It is up to us to say, without entering into avoidable details, that Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 5,000 cannot be easily paid from the poor tax-payer's money. I do not see any reason why members should get fretting over it like this. They can as well say that they are not going to spend even a single pie for the elected Deputy President. We have heard of so many elected Presidents after receiving the salary disbursing them for good, charitable and philanthropic objects and here also let us leave it to the good sense of the successful candidate. Let us not deny them that privilege. Let us not measure it in terms of rupees, annas and pies or the capacity to maintain a motor car or a *jutka*. I expect the movers of the amendment, in their sense of propriety, to find their way to withdraw their amendments and thereby unanimously support the motion brought forward by the Chief Secretary.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): Sir, I rise to support the amendment proposed by Mr. Asan. After the amendment was moved and seconded, most of the members who rose to speak opposed the amendment and supported the motion brought forward by the Chief Secretary. The arguments put forward by the supporters of the motion were that the Deputy President's salary must be determined consistent with the status of the position and with the work that he has to discharge. My own impression is that the Deputy President of this Assembly is in no way better than the former Deputy President nominated by Government. The only difference is that this House is in a position to elect the Deputy President. Apart from that, the Deputy President now elected by this Assembly is practically in the same position and vested with the same powers as the former Deputy President of the Legislative Council. As for the powers and duties of the Deputy President, my own impression is that the Deputy President has absolutely no powers except that he may conduct the proceedings of the House when the President asks him to do so. He has no right

to allow any motion, or accept any question that may be sent by the Members, but he can preside on occasions when the Dewan is absent, on his own courtesy.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Has not the Deputy President, when he is in the chair, all the powers of the President?

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): All the powers of the President are not possessed by the Deputy President. The statutory President possesses certain powers which the Deputy President does not possess. That is my point.

So much was said here about the status of the Deputy President. My own impression is that the status of the Deputy President is a matter not to be weighed in terms of rupees, annas and pies. That is a status given by the members of this House. It is not a question of weighing it with the salary that he gets. The term 'salary' is found in the Regulation itself which we cannot question. It cannot be considered as salary. It should be treated as honorarium. The work he has to discharge is very little. My own impression is that all the members of this House are also doing work among their other works which they have to discharge. The Deputy President is only one among us. The mere fact that he happens to be elected as the Deputy President does not mean that he should possess ever so many other dignities or that he has to discharge several other duties. The only thing is that we must not be guided by the expression 'salary' that finds a place in the Regulation. It is the question of the work that he has to discharge. When we are given the power to elect the President, then that is a different matter which has to be considered. If the President is to be elected by the Assembly, I will support any motion to give him a salary consistent with his work. Now the Deputy President has to discharge only very little work. Some member was saying that the Deputy President will have to preside over every sitting of the Select committees. I think he will get T. A. for that. Other members of the committees have to be satisfied with that. There is a provision in the Rules for the President to nominate a panel of Chairmen to preside on occasions when the Deputy President or the President is not present. They are also to preside on certain occasions over this House and they are not given any salary. There is no provision for that. The mere fact that one member among us is elected to be the Deputy President does not mean that we must give him high salary. The whole of the Rs. 3,000 proposed by the Chief Secretary is to be given for the work that the Deputy President has to discharge. I fully agree with Mr. Asan when he says that the Deputy President has to do work not for more than 40 days in one year. It does not mean that on all the sittings of the Assembly he has to preside. On some of these days the Dewan may preside over the deliberations of this House. He may at the most have to work for a month in an year. I submit that Rs. 1,000 is not a low amount for the work that the Deputy President has to do in this Assembly for 30 days.

[Mr. K. Sankaran.]

There is another thing which I wish to bring to the notice of the non-official members of this House. Even in the former Legislative Council, non-official members used to complain that there were ever so many high-paid officers in the State and they brought forward cut motions by way of suggesting that the high-paid officers' salary should be reduced. But when it is a question of our electing the Deputy President and fixing his salary, we should not forget all those good intentions which guided the members of the former Legislative Council to bring forward cut motions to reduce the salary of the high-paid officers. My submission is that if we are to fix this high salary of Rs. 3,000 for the Deputy President we might at least be morally estopped to bring forward any motion to cut down the salary of the high-paid officers at the time of the general discussion of the Budget. At least for that consideration, we may decide that the Deputy President must be satisfied with Rs. 1,000 as a decent salary. With these words, I strongly support the motion brought forward by Mr. Asan.

MR. K. MAHOMED (Alwaye): Sir, I support the amendment of Mr. Asan. This is a time of great economic depression. This House should not be made responsible for the Deputy President receiving a large amount of money as allowance or salary. By this I mean that this should be an example to the officials to realise that it is high time that there should be real retrenchment in their salaries.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (Chirayinkil I): May I know whether.....

PRESIDENT: The member has sat down.

MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (Ambalapuzha II): ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു കൊണ്ട് ഗവണ്മെന്റു ഭാഗത്തെ ഞാൻ സേവചിടിക്കുന്നു എന്നു തെറ്ററിദ്ധരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. എനിക്കതിൽ ന്യായമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നിയതു കൊണ്ടാണ് ഞാൻ അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുന്നത്. ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനു മുമ്പായിരം രൂപ പ്രതിഫലം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നും, അതു വേണ്ട ആയിരം രൂപ കൊടുത്താൽ മതിയെന്നും ഉള്ളതാണ് ഇവിടെ പ്രശ്നം. ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിന്റെ ജോലിയ്ക്കു തക്കവണ്ണം ഉള്ള ഒരു പ്രതിഫലം കൊടുക്കണോ വേണ്ടയോ എന്നുള്ളതാണ് നാം ഇവിടെ ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടത്. ഒരാളിൽ നീശ്ചയമായും അസംബ്ലിയുടെ നാല് സിറ്റിംഗ്സ് ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു ഏകദേശം നമുക്കു വിചാരിക്കാം. ഇതിന്നും പുറമെ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനു അനേകം കമ്മറ്റി മീറ്റിംഗുകളിലും പ്രസിഡൻറായി ഇരിക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നേയ്ക്കാം. കമ്മിറ്റി പ്രസിഡണ്ടായും അസംബ്ലി പ്രസിഡണ്ടായും ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡണ്ടിനു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതും ഉണ്ടാകാം.

MOTION FOR DETERMINATION OF THE SALARY OF THE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

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തീർക്കേണ്ടതായി അനേകം ജോലികൾ ഉണ്ടാകാം. അസംബ്ലിയുടെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായിട്ട് വരുന്ന ആളിന്റെ സ്ഥാനത്തെ തീരെ അവഗണിച്ച് നിസ്സാരമായ ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതു ഒട്ടും ആശാസ്യമല്ല. സ്ഥാനത്തെ നാം ബഹുമാനിക്കണം. ശമ്പളത്തെ ആശ്രയിച്ചിട്ടല്ല രാളിന്റെ സ്ഥാനം നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നത് എന്ന് ചിലർ വാദിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ ശമ്പളത്തെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയും ഈ സ്ഥാനത്തിന് മതി പ്പണ്ടെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നത്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ പ്രസിഡൻറിന് തന്നെ പ്രതിമാസം ൧൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളം മതി എന്ന് പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതു ആ സ്ഥാനത്തിന് മതിയാകുന്നതാണോ, തീർച്ചയായും അല്ല. അതു പോലെ തന്നെ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടിപ്രസിഡൻറിന് ജോലിയ്ക്കു തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. നേരെ മറിച്ച് പ്രതിമാസം ൭൫ രൂപാ നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നത് സ്ഥാനവലിപ്പത്തിന് തീരെ പോരാത്തതാണ്.

ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികാധിപതന് കാലത്തു ഇത്ര വലിയ ഒരു ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുന്നത് ശരിയല്ല എന്നുള്ള ഒരു വാദം ആണ് പ്രധാനമായി നില്ക്കുന്നത്. നമ്മുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ ജനസംഖ്യ അൻപതു ലക്ഷത്തിന് മേൽ ഉണ്ടെന്നു എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. ഇപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു പോലെ ൩,൦൦൦ രൂപാ അനുവദിച്ചാൽ തന്നെയും ജനസംഖ്യയെ ഒന്നാകെ കണക്കാക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം ആരും ഒന്നു ഒരു കാശിൽ കൂടുതൽ നഷ്ടം വരുന്നതല്ല. ഓരോരുത്തരും ഓരോ കാശു ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വലിയ സ്ഥാനത്തെ ബഹുമാനിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ചിലവാക്കുന്നതു ഉത്തമമാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

ചില സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിൽ അസംബ്ലിയിലോ കമ്മിറ്റി മീറ്റിംഗുകളിലോ വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾ വരുമ്പോൾ ബുദ്ധിപൂർവ്വമായ തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ട ചുമതലയും ഡെപ്യൂട്ടിപ്രസിഡൻറിനുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെ ബുദ്ധി ഉപയോഗിക്കാൻകൂടി പര്യാപ്തമായ ഈ ൩,൦൦൦ രൂപ അനുവദിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ സർവ്വശക്തിയും ഉപയോഗിച്ചു അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, I oppose the amendments and support the motion, mainly on grounds of delicacy. It would have been better if the nominations for the Deputy Presidents had come in after we had discussed this matter and settled the salary of the Deputy President. But, somehow or other, it has so happened that the nominations had already come in, so that, during the discussion of this question, we have the candidates before our eyes and we have to keep them in mind. As this is a matter concerning

[Mr. P. Chidambaram Pillai.]

purely the non-official members of the Assembly, we have to judge the question forgetting who the candidates are. That is rather difficult. Therefore the best way to deal with the question is to imagine that nobody is going to occupy the place and to consider the status of the Deputy President alone.

Status involves two things as I take it. Firstly, he has to keep up appearance not only within the State but outside also. People outside also have got to judge the status of the Deputy President of this Assembly; and they will do it according to standards prevailing there. Personally I would support the motion that the salary be fixed at three thousand rupees per annum. A threadbare discussion of this question of salary, now, is tantamount to discussing *post mortem* by the bed-side of a patient. That is exactly the predicament in which we are placed now. I would therefore support the motion, on grounds of delicacy.

MR. PUTUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know from the member whether, if one of the movers of the amendments had been nominated for election as Deputy President, he would have supported the motion?

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I do not quite catch my friend. I am not able to hear him.

MR. PUTUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Does the member imply that, if one of those who have now moved cut motions had been nominated for election as Deputy President, my friend would have supported this amendment?

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): My point is that, if nominations were to come in only after this discussion, I would have discussed the question more thoroughly.

MR. C. V. KUNJURAMAN (*Nominated*): ഞാൻ ഈ ഭേദഗതികളെ എതിർക്കുകയും ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി അവതരിപ്പിച്ച മോഷനെ അനുകൂലിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഞാൻ ഇവിടെവന്നപ്പോൾ എന്റെ വിചാരം ഈ വാഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഞനും സംസാരിക്കാതിരിക്കണമെന്നായിരുന്നു. ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിന് രൂപം ൩, ൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ പ്രതിഫലം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നും മറ്റൊരാൾ ൧, ൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ മതിയെന്നും, പിന്നെയൊരാൾ ൧, ൨ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ വേണമെന്നും, നാലാമതൊരാൾ ൧, ൫ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ കൊടുക്കാമെന്നും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇതിൽനിന്നും പലക്കും പലതാണ് അഭിപ്രായം എന്നു വ്യക്തമാകുന്നുണ്ട്. ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറായിട്ടു വരാൻ പോകുന്നയാൾ ൩൨ അനുജോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിലുള്ള ഒരാളാണ് എന്നുള്ളതു് നിശ്ചയം. ആരുതന്നെ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറായിരുന്നാലും മറ്റു അനുജോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെക്കാൾ

കൂടുതൽ പ്രതിഫലമാനും അദ്ദേഹത്തിനുണ്ടായിരിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. അനുജോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു കിട്ടുന്ന ഒരു രൂപാകൊണ്ട് അദ്ദേഹവും തൃപ്തിപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളണമെന്നും, അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു കൂടുതൽ ഒരു രൂപയും കൊടുക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നുമുള്ള വിചാരം അസംബ്ളിയിലേക്കുവരുമ്പോൾ എനിക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇവിടെ നടന്ന വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾ കേട്ടതിൽ ഈ മുമ്പായിരം രൂപയിൽ നിന്നും ഒട്ടംകുറയാത്ത ഒരു തുക തന്നെ അനുവദിക്കണമെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല കുറച്ചു കൂടുതൽ കൊടുത്താലും കൊള്ളാമെന്നു എനിക്കുതോന്നുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇങ്ങനെ കൂടുതൽ കൊടുക്കുന്നതു രൂപയായിട്ടുതന്നെ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നില്ല. നമ്മുടെ സ്റ്റേറ്റ് റവകു ധാരാളം കാർകൾ ഉണ്ട്. അതിൽ ഒരു ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനായി വിട്ടുകൊടുത്താലും മതിയാവും.

മുമ്പിലത്തെ കൌൺസിലിൽ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനു ൩,൦൦൦ രൂപ പ്രതിഫലം കൊടുത്തുവന്നതു് ആണറേറിയം എന്നുള്ള ബഹുമാനമായ ഒരു പേരുപറഞ്ഞാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ അസംബ്ളിയാൽ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനു പ്രതിഫലം നശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു സാധരി എന്നു നാമത്താലാണ്. സാധരികൊടുക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു നല്ല സാധരിതന്നെയായിരിക്കണം.

ഇതിനുംപുറമെ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറായിരിക്കേണ്ടയാൾ ടിവാൻ പ്രസിഡൻറു ന്റെ സ്വാധീകാരവും വഹിക്കേണ്ട ആളാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ ഈ സഭയിൽ ടിവാൻജിക്കു തുല്യമായ സ്ഥാനം വഹിയ്ക്കുന്ന ഒരാളിനു ആ സ്ഥാനത്തിനു അനുരൂപമായ പ്രതിഫലം നിശ്ചയിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ അതു ഈ സഭയുടെ ഗൗരവത്തിനു ഹാനികരമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. മുമ്പിലത്തെ കൌൺസിലിലെ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനു കൊടുത്തുവന്നിരുന്ന തുകയിൽനിന്നും കുറഞ്ഞതുക മുമ്പത്തെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ അധികാരങ്ങളുള്ള ഈ അസംബ്ളിയിലെ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനു കൊടുക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതും ഒട്ടം ഭംഗിയല്ല. ആളുകൾ പലരും പലകണക്കുകളും ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞു. ഈ കൌൺസിലിന്റെ അന്തസ്സിനു അനുയോജ്യമായ ഒരു തുകയായിരിക്കണം ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറിനു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനായി നിശ്ചയിക്കേണ്ടതെന്നുള്ളതിനു യാതൊരു സംശയവുമില്ല. പോരെങ്കിൽ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡൻറു വളരെ ഡീസെൻറായി ജീവിതം കഴിക്കേണ്ട ആളാണെന്ന് എല്ലാവരും സമ്മതിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ ഈ അസംബ്ളി അതിന്റെ അന്തസ്സിനെ പാലിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ചീഫ് സിക്രട്ടറിയുടെ മോഷനിൽ കാണുന്ന തുകതന്നെ അനുവദിക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): I feel bound to express one or two sentiments here in opposing the amendments. From certain questions put by Mr. Asan to some of the speakers, about the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, I find that a word has to be said by way of explanation. My friend Mr. Thanu Pillai and I were members of the Retrenchment Committee; and, as Mr. Thanu Pillai appears to be in a delicate position now (he being one of the candidates for election as Deputy President), I feel constrained to offer an explanation. The Retrenchment Committee was constituted with a view to suggest means and measures for effecting retrenchment of expenditure in view of the impending economic calamity prevailing in the country. We were not called upon to investigate every department working under Government, to scrutinise every item of expenditure incurred by Government and then to suggest permanent measures for the purpose of effecting a saving. If, during the course of our deliberations, we were able to stumble upon any means, which would enable the Government to effect a substantial cut or permanent retrenchment, such suggestions were welcomed. But, that was not the object with which we were appointed. We were called upon to suggest means by which Government may make a saving, in order that they may get over the economic crisis. We suggested that officers employed by Government should make a remission of five per cent. and ten per cent. out of their salaries which they drew from the Treasury every month. We also suggested that certain offices might be abolished. We further suggested that expenditure on contingencies and such other matters might be retrenched. It was found that any retrenchment of salary or any remuneration, paid by Government for service rendered to them, would not be accepted by them. When we discussed the honorarium given to the Deputy President, we were influenced by the expression 'honorarium'.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether the member is in order and whether all this is relevant?

PRESIDENT: Yes, at the moment.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): In the first place, as I said, we found that it has been called 'honorarium'. Secondly, when we had recommended that every officer appointed by Government must make a sacrifice of a portion of his salary, we thought it just that the Deputy President, who was also nominated by Government, should make a sacrifice in the remuneration he was to get from Government. Therefore, we recommended that the Deputy President need be given only Rs. 1,000 per annum.

The position is now entirely different. For the first time in the history of the Legislature in Travancore, we, the non-official members, are being called upon to elect the best among us as our Deputy President. In that circumstance, the various arguments, advanced by some of my friends in support of the amendment of Mr. Asan, are not acceptable to me from the point of view in which I consider this question.

My friend Mr. Asan said that the Deputy President must be in a position to live a decent life and that this House need contribute only what will be just enough for that. I have only one question to put to him. He suggested that Rs. 83 chs. 9 a month would certainly be enough for the Deputy President to live a decent life in Trivandrum. I asked him for details, but he was not in a position to furnish them. Sir, every honorable member of this House is entitled to get five rupees *per diem* during the sittings of the Assembly. May I ask the mover of the amendment whether he really believes that the sum of Rs. 5 is necessary for a day for decent living in Trivandrum? I am certain that with a rupee or even half a rupee there are hundreds of people living decent lives in Trivandrum. Are the honorable members prepared to say that they will be satisfied with half a rupee as allowance per day. All of us draw one and a half first class fare for journeys by train and 11 chackrams per mile for journeys by road. Is there any member of this House who has always travelled in the first class by train? How many of us have travelled in the first class and claimed one and a half first class that is allowed? Is it necessary for a person to travel decently in the train to get one and a half first class. I believe that a person travelling in the third class can travel as decently as a person travelling in the first class. Why should we then claim the one and a half first class that is allowed to us? Therefore, in considering this question the question of decency has to be determined. (Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai: *Hear, hear.*) There might be persons who fast in the night and live on one meal in the day. There might be persons who take bacon and eggs for their breakfast. There may be others who are accustomed to half a dozen veal cutlets and a bottle of beer at night. Others there are who live on *dosais*. (*Laughter.*) Now, a person advocating the fasting system at night may say that one can live with four annas per day. A person who lives a full vigorous life with veal cutlets and other things may say that that is not sufficient. But when we dispassionately consider the question on principles of decency and reasonableness, we will strike a *via media* and say that such and such a sum is a reasonable sum. The model is afforded to us by the budget itself. For the preservation of wild animals, one officer is to be paid four hundred rupees a month. Is not the Deputy President who is called upon to discharge more onerous duties justified in claiming at least this amount? But I would draw the attention of this House to another fact. The Superintendent of the Guest House certainly draws more than Rs. 83 5 as. per mensem and he superintends certain things. But here is the Deputy President, the best man amongst us who is called upon to offer the soundest advice, the most dispassionate advice on controversial matters and you say that he shall live a decent life on Rs. 83 per mensem. He comes here not to lose his temper but to deliberate calmly and give us calm and sound judgment. He would be in a very difficult position if the best man amongst us is to be offered only Rs. 83 per mensem.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): May I know whether the Deputy President is to superintend the members of this House for all the twelve months?

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): That is another aspect of the question on which I wanted to say a word. The learned mover said that the Deputy President has to attend the House approximately for 40 days a year and he said that Rs. 25 per diem would be a decent remuneration. I was certainly surprised to hear that the Deputy President, the best man in this Assembly who should be chosen to discharge the duties of the Deputy President, should work for Rs. 25 a day, a sum which, if offered to several of us for a day's work, will be spurned with contempt. I am really sorry that my friends could not imagine a larger figure for a day's work. How many of us here are prepared to work for a full day on, say, Rs. 100 or Rs. 150? Probably such days may only be few in number but we would rather have the few days than a whole month at Rs. 2-12 as per diem. Rs. 1,000 now offered, divided by 365, appears to work out to Rs. 2-12 as. Is there any member here who would accept an engagement for a day's work for Rs. 2-12 as? (One Member "yes") (*Laughter*). If that be so, if the answer 'yes' comes from any person who fully believes in it, I am quite certain that this amendment might be appealing to him. But to me, it appears that the argument that Rs. 25 may be given to the best man amongst us for a day's work is an argument which can never appeal to several of us.

The duties of the Deputy President, Sir, are onerous. And I am not able to agree with Mr. Sankaran when he said that the Deputy President is only one amongst us and that there is nothing to distinguish him from us. That is an argument on the face of it wrong. It is only a person who is able to fulfil the duties of the Deputy President who will be able to step up the platform and occupy the Chair and it is about that man that we are now speaking. It may be any one of us. That does not matter. It is not every man who will be able to go there and that, I presume, will convince the member who spoke that there is no distinction between the man who goes there as the Deputy President and an ordinary member, of the position taken by me. Sir, I oppose the amendments now brought forward and support the Chief Secretary's motion.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Sir, I oppose both the amendments and support the motion before the House. It is significant that there is no amendment before this House that the place should be honorary or that the Deputy President should work free. It is admitted by all that some salary should be paid to the Deputy President. Only there seems to be difference of opinion with regard to the salary that should be paid to the Deputy President.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is the member aware that the Regulation provides for a salary to the Deputy President?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Yes. Only some of my friends differ with regard to the standard of decency and dignity. With regard to these, what I say is that as reasonable men we should fix a certain rate. That is all that we can do. There is no hard and fast rule with regard to the standard of decency, the standard of dignity and the position to be maintained by the Deputy President. As reasonable men we have to fix a standard. There is the precedent also to guide us. In the pre-Reform Councils, the nominated Deputy President was paid a salary of Rs. 3,000 per annum. No doubt, the question of the prevailing economic distress has to be considered. We have to consider the question of the sorry plight of the tax-payers. All this is true. But the other expenses provided for in the budget have also been fixed with respect to certain prevailing standards. I am really sorry that in the motion the amount of Rs. 3,000 only has been provided for. At the time of the elections, we were under the impression that an amount of Rs. 4,000 would be fixed. I think that is the reason we had so many nominations. But for that, the number of candidates would have been less. The amount now fixed in the motion is a reasonable amount and I would commend this motion for the acceptance of the whole House.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): I propose, Sir, that the question be now put.

PRESIDENT: Is there anybody else who wishes to speak? Do you want to reply, Mr. Asan?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Sir, I have only a few words to offer in reply to the comments made by my friends. Some of my friends think that the status, dignity and decency of a person is to be determined by the pay he is to receive; and my friend Mr. Krishna Pillai was saying that Rs. 25 per diem is too low, and some of them would work only if they are paid Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 a day. Sir, there the work is done for the money received. It is not public work. There the object of going for work is to receive remuneration. In this case it is not. I am sorry that comparisons were made with such engagements and that a comparison of the Deputy President was made with the Superintendent of the Museum who controls the wild animals there. (*Laughter*). We are not wild animals. (*Laughter*).

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member, who talked about the Superintendent of the Museum?

PRESIDENT: Please continue, Mr. Asan.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Another argument was that, in the previous Councils, the Deputy President was paid Rs. 3,000 per annum. If my friends would refer to the budget of the earlier sessions of the previous Council, they would find that the salary of the Deputy President was a non-votable item and that nothing could be done by this House to reduce the pay of the Deputy President but

[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

that token motions have been moved in this House to signify that a reduction should be made in the allowance of the Deputy President. My friend, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, was saying that in addition to his presiding over the meetings here the Deputy President is bound to be appointed as the President or member of many Select committees. I know that Mr. Krishna Aiyangar was appointed as the President of the Irrigation Committee but that he resigned his Presidentship. Then, the Government was not able to compel him to continue. Even in the Legislative Council, when he was offered the membership of certain committees, he requested the President to excuse him and not to include him in those committees. Thus, it can be seen that there is nothing like compelling a Deputy President to be a member of the committees.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): On a point of personal explanation, I wish to say that I never stated that the Deputy President is bound to preside over all the committees. It is a wilful misrepresentation to say that.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): There are the proceedings of the Assembly to decide that.

These are the main points advanced by those who opposed my amendment. With these words, I press the amendment.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, although the motion has been brought in by Government, it is not the intention of Government to take any particular side in the decision of this matter. Government would leave it entirely to the non-official side of this House.

PRESIDENT: I shall put Mr. Asan's amendment first. It is—

"That "(1,000) one thousand" be substituted for "(3,000) three thousand" occurring after "Rs." and before "per annum" in the motion."

Those who are in favour of Mr. Krishna Menon's amendment and the Chief Secretary's proposal should vote against this amendment.

The amendment of Mr. Damodaran Asan was put to the vote of the House and declared lost.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Menon's amendment is—

"That for the words "Rs. (3,000) three thousand" occurring in the motion, the words "Rs. (300) three hundred for each session, without exceeding Rs. (1,500) one thousand and five hundred a year" be substituted."

The amendment was put to the vote of the House and declared lost.

PRESIDENT: The motion now before the House is—

"That the Deputy President of the Sri Mulam Assembly be paid a salary of Rs. (3,000) three thousand per annum".

The motion was put to the vote of the House and declared carried.